

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Statement of

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On

Intelligence Support to Border Security

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**Committee on Homeland Security
Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk Assessment**

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Introduction

Chairman Simmons, Ranking Member Lofgren, distinguished Members of the Subcommittee. I thank you for this opportunity to join my Department of Homeland Security colleagues – Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Mr. Charles Allen, Ms. Cynthia O’Connell the Director of ICE’s Office of Intelligence and Mr. Jim Sloan, the Coast Guard’s Assistant Commandant for Intelligence and Criminal Investigations – to discuss with you the role intelligence plays within U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to help secure our Nation’s borders.

I am privileged to serve as the Executive Director of the CBP Office of Intelligence (OINT), a critical element of the Office of the Commissioner, charged with three primary responsibilities. The first is to directly support the Commissioner and CBP headquarters and field leadership with the acquisition, analysis and timely dissemination of intelligence information critical to CBP’s primary mission of detecting, identifying and preventing terrorists and terrorist weapons from entering the United States. The second is to efficiently manage an integrated CBP intelligence capability that ensures front-line CBP officers and decision makers have the value-added intelligence required to sustain border situational awareness, drive operations and support policy. And finally, as a member of the Department’s Homeland Security Intelligence Council (HSIC), it is the responsibility of the OINT to represent CBP’s intelligence requirements and equities to the DHS Chief Intelligence Officer/Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, and assist him in directing an integrated DHS intelligence enterprise that provides one DHS face to the National Intelligence Community. I will address each of these responsibilities from the perspective of intelligence support to border security.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Overview

In addition to facilitating the international trade critical to the United States economy, CBP is responsible for protecting more than 5,000 miles of border with Canada, 1,900 miles of border with Mexico and operating 325 official Ports of Entry. On an average day in 2005, CBP personnel: processed 1,181,605 passengers and pedestrians, 69,370 containers, 333,226 incoming privately owned vehicles and \$81,834,298 in fees, duties and tariffs; executed 62 arrests at ports of entry and over 3,257 apprehensions between the ports for illegal entry; seized over 5,541 pounds of narcotics and 1,145 prohibited meat, plant materials or animal products at and between the ports of entry; refused entry to 868 non-citizens at the ports of entry; and intercepted 146 smuggled aliens and 206 fraudulent documents while rescuing 7 illegal immigrants in distress or dangerous conditions between the ports of entry. As these figures demonstrate, CBP, the nation’s unified border agency, addresses a variety of threats to U.S. borders that includes illegal

immigration, illegal drugs, border violence, illegal incursions, pests/diseases and a host of trade violations ranging from smuggling to intellectual property rights.

Countering Terrorists

While these threats to our borders are addressed each day, all CBP personnel understand that their priority mission is to prevent terrorists and their weaponry from entering the United States. While OINT directly supports operations aimed at addressing all border threat categories, it also remains focused on supporting CBP's priority mission of preventing terrorists and their weaponry from entering the United States. The first priority of CBP's Office of Intelligence is to operationalize intelligence reporting on terrorist threats. Each day, OINT watch standers and analysts review over 1000 intelligence community products, engage with CBP liaison officers and analysts embedded in DHS and the national intelligence community, and leverage long-standing partnerships with federal, state, local and international law enforcement and intelligence organizations to ensure early awareness of all potential terrorist travel or movement of materials to the United States. Working closely with their operational counterparts, OINT analysts meld this intelligence with information, trends and patterns identified in CBP operational reporting to properly assess and place in context these threats, discern vulnerabilities, evaluate potential consequences and ultimately calculate the risk these threats may pose to the borders of the United States. The results of this daily all-source analysis and risk assessment process is disseminated via over a dozen intelligence product lines and services including intelligence reports and alerts to CBP's operational and field elements on the border that provide situational awareness, address officer safety and/or assist in developing targeting criteria against specific terrorist threats to the United States.

Operations and Intelligence Briefings/Intelligence Driven Operations

Regular, all-source, intelligence briefings are provided to the Commissioner and CBP operational Assistant Commissioners from the Offices of Field Operations, Border Patrol, Anti-Terrorism, Air and Marine and International Affairs. During these briefings, CBP's senior leadership review the most current threat developments, maintain continuity on existing terrorist threat streams and utilize the latest intelligence available to formulate appropriate operational actions required to counter those threats. CBP's senior leadership has a number of operational courses of action available to operationalize threat intelligence, to include directing intelligence driven operations. Once CBP's senior leadership concurs that there is viable intelligence indicating a threat to our borders, an operational response plan is quickly formulated to address the specific threat modus, timeframe and geographic locations. These threat-based operations are put together by CBP's affected headquarters and field elements, formally vetted through the DHS Chief Intelligence Officer, then promulgated to the appropriate CBP operational field components for implementation. Additionally, OINT will regularly report the results of these operations via Homeland Security Intelligence Reports, and the CBP Office of Field Operations or Office of Border Patrol will formally assess the operational results upon their conclusion.

Supporting Forward Operations

To meet its priority mission, CBP has implemented a layered, defense in-depth strategy that thoroughly addresses people and cargo for linkages to terrorism prior to entering the United States. In partnership with an array of countries, international organizations, private businesses, and trade entities, CBP is involved with a host of programs and initiatives aimed at pushing our “zone of defense” outward. A key example of this is the Container Security Initiative (CSI), which places CBP personnel teams in key overseas ports to assist in identifying high-risk cargo. OINT has selected and trained intelligence research specialists to work as members of these CSI teams. Embedded with their host country, CSI intelligence personnel are supported daily by OINT which routinely provides them overviews of the latest intelligence threat reporting and vets their individual and company names of interest against U.S. intelligence terrorist data bases for derogatory information, etc.

Another example of CBP pushing its “zone of defense” outward is the Customs and Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) which has CBP partnering with over 9,000 private businesses to ensure the security of the international supply chain to prevent terrorists from exploiting legitimate trade. Membership in C-TPAT requires the CBP to regularly certify partner company due diligence, and OINT plays a significant role in supporting CBP with intelligence research, entity searches, and the verification of information.

Supporting Operations at the Border

In addition to OINT’s regular products and support to intelligence driven operations, OINT provides daily support to, the operational offices charged with maintaining CBP’s border presence and security. These operational offices have placed subject matter experts within secure OINT facilities in order to increase information sharing and agency cooperation. Furthermore, OINT maintains a permanent detachment at CBP’s National Targeting Center (NTC) with secure connectivity to national intelligence community reporting and data bases. This detachment supports the NTC’s mission to assess all cargo and passengers enroute to the U.S. for potential links to terrorism and to directly support CBP Officers and Agents when they encounter individuals or cargo linked to terrorism.

Managing the Integrated CBP Intelligence Enterprise

It is the responsibility of the Office of Intelligence to functionally manage the larger CBP intelligence enterprise. A number of CBP components have formally designated intelligence organizations, while others, such as the Office of Field Operations, have robust operational information analysis capabilities that work closely with these intelligence organizations. The Office of the Border Patrol has a significant intelligence organization that includes a national headquarters division, a Border Field Intelligence Center in El Paso, Texas and intelligence units at each of the 20 Border Patrol Sectors, all responsible for directly supporting front line Border Patrol Agents. CBP Air and Marine has a formal intelligence capability with designated intelligence personnel at their

national headquarters, Air and Marine Operations Center in Riverside, California and with their Directors of Air Operations and Branches around the United States. These intelligence organizations are staffed with a combination of intelligence research specialists as well as Border Patrol Agents and CBP Air and Marine officers filling intelligence positions.

As you can imagine, each of these organizations generate standing and ad hoc information needs, intelligence requirements, requests for information, collection requirements, as well as a host of personnel, training, connectivity, equipment and policy needs. OINT aggregates, validates and prioritizes these requirements and brokers them through the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis to the national intelligence community for satisfaction.

Leveraging the DHS Intelligence Enterprise

CBP leverages the DHS Intelligence Enterprise largely by OINT's membership in the larger DHS intelligence enterprise. Working with the Chief Intelligence Officer, Assistant Secretary Charles Allen, the Department of Homeland Security is putting into place a rapidly expanding capability to support its agencies' intelligence components. As CBP's Key Intelligence Official, I am a member of Assistant Secretary Allen's Homeland Security Intelligence Council (HSIC) – the primary DHS intelligence decision-making body. Personnel from my office represent CBP's intelligence requirements on over a dozen HSIC-established panels, boards and working groups that address issues ranging from analytical production coordination to collection, training, and information systems. It is through this maturing DHS intelligence enterprise management architecture that OINT is addressing critical intelligence concerns such as supporting Operation Jumpstart's deployment of National Guard Bureau intelligence personnel to the Southwest Border and supporting implementation of the Southwest Border Counter-Narcotics Strategy. Additionally, by leveraging the developing DHS report writers and intelligence training programs, CBP is gaining personnel and training necessary to ensure that it can translate its significant operational information flow into a steady supply of timely, intelligence reports. These reports are earning acclaim for their relevancy from national, state and local intelligence and law enforcement customers, and make CBP a leading producer of intelligence reporting among DHS components. OINT will continue to play a leading role in developing this DHS intelligence enterprise and leverage it to facilitate its own developing intelligence integration plans and meet its intelligence needs.

Closing

I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to testify today with my Department of Homeland Security intelligence colleagues. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.